

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

By the present amendments, non-elected claims 1-10 and 13-17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The feature of allowed claim 18 has been added to claim 11 and claim 19 has been amended to depend upon claim 11. New claims 20-27 have been added. Claims 20-22 and 25-27 find support in paragraphs [0046] and [0047] on page 15 of the present specification, claim 23 finds support in paragraph [0026] on page 7, and claim 24 finds support in paragraph [0045] on page 14. No new matter has been added. Claims 11, 12 and 19-27 are now pending in this application.

Claims 11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by WO 00/37260 to Baker for the reasons given in paragraph (2) of the Office Action. Claims 11 and 19 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,362,558 to Sakaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,985,425 to Tomizawa et al. for the reasons given in paragraph (3) of the Office Action. Withdrawal of these rejections is requested in view of the above amendments and for at least the following reasons.


Claim 18 was indicated as allowable in paragraph (5) of the Office Action. The feature of dependent claim 18 has been added to independent claim 11 and claim 18 has been added canceled. Claims 12, 19 and 20-27 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 11. Accordingly, all remaining claims are now believed to be in allowable condition.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 838-6683 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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